

**To: Natural Gas Distribution Operators****From: Glynn Blanton, Chief**

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**Public Awareness Program - API RP 1162**

This is the year of the **Public Awareness Program!!** As you know, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 requires each operator to "develop, implement, and maintain a public education program that complies with standard API RP 1162". On May 19, 2005, OPS issued a final rule stating that "Operators in existence on June 20, 2005, must have completed their written programs no later than **June 20, 2006**." At the time of this writing, it is still undecided to which agency all Tennessee distribution operators will be required to file their written documents, OPS or TRA. Under consideration by TRA and other state pipeline safety agencies are options to have the operator file the written document with a federal clearinghouse or their state pipeline safety agency. Under the clearinghouse option, the operator would file the written document electronically or by mail. The clearinghouse would determine if the document is deemed acceptable or not acceptable. If deemed not acceptable, the operator would be required to provide additional information.

Participation by a state agency in the clearinghouse option would not prevent the agency from enforcing public awareness regulations while the document is being reviewed. OPS has requested state agencies make a decision on the clearinghouse option before the anticipated issuance of an Advisory Bulletin in April 2006, that will provide operators with instructions for submitting their written program to either the clearinghouse or state agency. We will inform you of our decision by written notice and by our website. Please remember that participation in the clearinghouse does not prevent this state agency from enforcing the public awareness regulations. The program should address the following points:

- ⇒ use of a One-Call notification system prior to

excavation, and other damage prevention activities;

- ⇒ possible hazards associated with unintended releases from the pipeline facility;
- ⇒ physical indications that such a release may have occurred;
- ⇒ what steps should be taken for public safety in the event of a pipeline release; and
- ⇒ how to report such an event.

Operators must include in their programs activities to advise affected municipalities, school districts, businesses, and residents of pipeline locations. Please make note of the requirement that operators must review their programs for effectiveness and enhance the programs as necessary. You can view, save to your PC (not print), or purchase a hard copy of RP1162 on the API website:

<http://committees.api.org/pipeline/standards/index.html>.

**TAUD Public Awareness Workshop**

The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts will sponsor a one-day workshop on Public Awareness Training for natural gas utilities Wednesday, March 22 at the Franklin Marriott-Cool Springs. Gas Safety's Glynn Blanton and John Erickson of the American Public Gas Association will be conducting the workshop. Registration is \$100 for TAUD members, \$125 for non-members, and includes lunch and breaks. TAUD has mailed a brochure to all TGA members. For more information, call John Shadwick or Bill Dobbins at (615) 896-9022.

**Contractor OQ and Drug & Alcohol Records**

2005 inspections have shed light into a common problem area for operators -- keeping track of contractor records for OQ and drug and alcohol testing. The operator must provide documentation to prove that the contractors it hires are qualified for each covered task they perform. This documentation should state the name of the person qualified, the task, date qualified, and method of qualification. Operators are also required to review all contractor drug and alcohol plans. The plans, including the contractor's testing records and annual random drug testing rates, should be kept in your file and readily accessible by inspectors. In summary, records for your contractor's OQ and Drug and Alcohol programs should be similar to records kept for your own employees.

## 8-1-1 National Campaign

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in March 2005 designated the 8-1-1 number as the national abbreviated dialing code for one-call systems. The three-digit number will be easy to remember and use by all excavators to help reduce damages to all underground facilities. On August 8, 2005, the TRA was the first state agency to approve an application from its one call organization, Tennessee One-Call, for assignment of the 8-1-1 number. TN One-Call was given the number and has requested all telephone companies in TN to make this change before the FCC mandated date of March 2007. As of this date, the following telephone companies in Tennessee have complied with the request and implemented the 8-1-1 national one-call number:

- Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Co-op, Inc.
- West Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc.
- US Cellular
- TDS Telecom
- Verizon Wireless (March, 06)

Recently, the Common Ground Alliance board of directors approved the recommendation of the 8-1-1 Task Team co-chairs and project manager to award the advertising contract to the Dallas, TX firm RBMM. The firm will develop a logo and tag line for the 8-1-1 national campaign. The release date is April 2006. All of the information will be downloadable at no charge from CGA's website for use in educational hand-out material.

## Distribution Integrity Management Program

The Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) Phase I report has been completed. Glynn Blanton chairs the Coordinating Task Teams that compiled the report and presented it to the federal DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on December 12, 2005 in Washington D.C. Blanton serves on the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee. During the committee's meeting December 13, Blanton received a PHMSA award of appreciation



L to R: Glynn Blanton, Gas Pipeline Safety Chief and Brigham McCown, PHMSA Administrator.

for his leadership and dedication in investigating the challenges and opportunities of distribution integrity management for distribution pipeline operators. Congress and DOT Inspector General Meal requested that PHMSA enhance natural gas pipeline safety by establishing integrity management requirements for distribution operators. Industry, state regulators, and interested public were called upon to produce this report because of the diversity among distribution operators and their systems. The report is expected to be a significant aid to PHMSA in meeting their integrity management for distribution systems goal and the establishment of a federal rule. The report can be viewed at:

[http://www.cycla.com/opsiswc/docs/S8/P0068/DIMP\\_Phase1Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.cycla.com/opsiswc/docs/S8/P0068/DIMP_Phase1Report_Final.pdf).

## Excess Flow Valves (EFVs)

The issue of excess flow valve installation by local distribution systems has become a highly contentious issue in the current national dialogue on safety by members of Congress, National Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and National Transportation Safety Board. The debate over whether gas operators should be required to install EFVs dates back to the early 1970s when these devices were introduced to the industry and public. An EFV is a device that restricts the flow of gas in a customer's service line when a severe rupture in the line occurs. By restricting gas flow, an EFV may help to prevent deaths, injuries, and property damage. Current federal regulations require gas operators to either notify new or renewal customers about the benefits and availability of EFVs (which they can purchase), or voluntarily install EFVs on all new and renewal service lines.

In 2005, The National Regulatory Research Institute at the request of the PHMSA conducted a survey on treatment of EFVs by state public utility commissions. Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia responded to the survey. The results of the survey were presented at a public meeting and reflect the diversity of views held by both state commissions and gas operators regarding the installation of EFVs. Highlights from the survey responses include:

- The majority of states believe that current federal regulations are effective & no change is needed.
- The majority of gas operators do not voluntarily install EFVs.
- Relatively few customers are willing to purchase an EFV, when offered.
- State commissions are split over who should make the decision to install EFVs.

The complete report and survey can be viewed at:

<http://www.nrri.ohio-state.edu/NaturalGas>. NRRI has been requested by PHMSA to perform an annual survey of this issue. Our agency will be collecting data on the installation of EFVs during our inspection visits this year.

## National Issues on Pipeline Safety

At a recent meeting of state pipeline safety offices, NAPS, and federal pipeline officials, the following items were identified by the PHMSA as high priorities for 2006:

- Operator Qualification Plan review results for congressional report
- Integrity Management Program Plans for natural gas pipelines (transmission lines only)
- Integrity Management Program Plans for hazardous liquid pipelines
- Public Education and Damage Prevention RP 1162 implementation
- Distribution Integrity Management – "Guidelines for States"
- Excess Flow Valves: voluntary versus mandatory. Include in proposed integrity management rule
- Strengthening damage prevention laws to allow state commissions to enforce them

## ***Gas Pipeline Safety Division Chief and Engineers***



L to R: Clifton Phillips, Larry Borum, Eric Cherry, Brad Williams, Tom Woosley, Glynn Blanton, chief.

### **GAS PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## 2006 Operator/Inspector List

### Private

Atmos Energy  
 Bristol- Borum  
 Columbia- Phillips  
 Franklin- Williams  
 Greeneville- Borum  
 Johnson City- Woosley  
 Kingsport- Woosley  
 Maryville- Cherry  
 Morristown- Cherry  
 Murfreesboro- Phillips  
 Shelbyville- Woosley  
 Union City- Cherry  
 Chattanooga- Williams  
 Chattanooga<sup>(Clev)</sup>- Woosley  
 Counce- Cherry  
 GASCO<sup>(Jellico)</sup>- Phillips  
 GASCO<sup>(Byrdstown)</sup>- Borum  
 Hartsville- Phillips  
 Nashville Gas- Williams  
 Red Boiling Sprs.- Borum

### Municipal

Adamsville- Williams  
 Athens- Woosley  
 Athens<sup>(Ardmore)</sup>- Borum  
 Bells- Williams  
 Bolivar- Cherry  
 Brownsville- Phillips  
 Centerville- Woosley  
 Clarksville- Williams  
 Clifton- Phillips  
 Collinwood- Borum  
 Cookeville- Woosley  
 Covington- Phillips  
 Dickson- Phillips  
 Dunlap- Phillips  
 Dyersburg- Phillips  
 Englewood- Williams  
 Etowah- Borum  
 Fayetteville- Phillips  
 Ft. Campbell- Woosley  
 Friendship- Cherry  
 Gainesboro- Cherry  
 Gallatin- Phillips  
 Gallaway- Phillips  
 Halls- Cherry  
 Harriman- Borum  
 Henderson- Borum  
 Henning- Woosley  
 Hohenwald- Woosley  
 Humboldt- Woosley  
 Jackson- Woosley  
 Jamestown- Borum

Knoxville- Phillips  
 Lafayette- Williams  
 Lawrenceburg- Cherry  
 Lebanon- Williams  
 Lenoir City- Phillips  
 Lewisburg- Williams  
 Lexington- Williams  
 Linden- Woosley  
 Livingston- Cherry  
 Lobelville- Cherry  
 Loretto- Woosley  
 Loudon- Woosley  
 Madisonville- Williams  
 Marion- Cherry  
 Martin- Williams  
 Mason- Williams  
 Maury City- Cherry  
 Memphis- Woosley  
 Monteagle- Cherry  
 Mt. Pleasant- Borum  
 Munford- Cherry  
 Newbern- Borum  
 Obion- Borum  
 Parsons- Williams  
 Pikeville- Borum  
 Portland- Cherry  
 Pulaski- Williams  
 Ridgetop- Williams  
 Ripley- Borum  
 Rockwood- Williams  
 Savannah- Phillips  
 Selmer- Phillips  
 Smyrna- Woosley  
 Somerville- Phillips  
 South Fulton- Cherry  
 Springfield- Borum  
 St. Joseph- Borum  
 Sweetwater- Woosley  
 Trimble- Borum  
 Troy- Borum  
 Waynesboro- Cherry

### Utility District

Bedford County- Borum  
 Citizens Gas- Borum  
 Claiborne Co.- Woosley  
 Clay Gas- Woosley  
 Crockett Public- Borum  
 Elk River Public- Williams  
 Gibson County- Woosley  
 Hardeman/Fayette- Woosley  
 Hawkins County- Phillips  
 Horton Highway- Cherry  
 Humphreys Co.- Cherry

Jefferson-Cocke- Williams  
 Lake County- Borum  
 Middle Tennessee Gas  
 Crossville- Cherry  
 Dayton- Williams  
 McMinnville- Woosley  
 Smithville- Phillips  
 Sparta- Cherry  
 Oak Ridge- Borum  
 Paris/Henry Co.- Phillips  
 Poplar Grove- Borum  
 Powell/Clinch- Cherry  
 Powell Valley- Cherry  
 Sevier County- Woosley  
 Tipton Co., First- Williams  
 Unicoi County- Williams  
 Upper Cumb.- Phillips  
 West TN Public- Williams  
 Volunteer Energy - Phillips

### Housing Authority

Columbia- Woosley  
 Covington- Woosley  
 Gallatin- Cherry  
 Harriman- Williams  
 Hartsville- Williams  
 Huntingdon- Borum  
 Jackson- Borum  
 Jefferson City- Borum  
 Lawrenceburg- Phillips  
 Lebanon- Borum  
 Livingston- Cherry  
 Martin- Phillips  
 McKenzie- Cherry  
 Memphis- Woosley  
 Metro Dev/Hous.- Woosley  
 Murfreesboro- Borum  
 Parsons/Decatur- Williams  
 Portland- Williams  
 Pulaski- Williams  
 South Pittsburg- Cherry  
 Tullahoma- Cherry  
 Union City- Phillips  
 Waverly- Phillips

### Apartment

Alexian Village- Woosley  
 Avalon West- Cherry  
 Georgetown- Cherry  
 Green Hills Terr.- Borum  
 Kirby Pines Est.- Woosley  
 Maple Village- Phillips  
 Pentad<sup>(Crestview)</sup>- Williams

Pentad<sup>(Hill & Pkwy)</sup>- Williams  
 Ravenscroft- Cherry  
 Rose Garden- Borum  
 Shepherd Hills- Phillips

### Mobile Home Park

Fern Creek- Borum  
 Old Trinity- Cherry  
 Stephens Park- Woosley

### Intrastate Pipeline

Clear Creek- Phillips  
 Coalfield- Cherry  
 COPCO- Woosley  
 ESG Pipeline- Woosley  
 Evan Energy- Williams  
 Fentress Gas- Cherry  
 TENGASCO- Williams  
 Titan Energy- Borum

### Direct Sale

AcuPowder- Williams  
 AFG<sup>(Church Hill)</sup>- Williams  
 AFG<sup>(Kingsport)</sup>- Cherry  
 AOC- Williams  
 ALCOA- Woosley  
 Bowater- Williams  
 Dept. of Energy- Borum  
 Eastman Chem.- Woosley  
 General Shale- Cherry  
 Holston<sup>(Kingsport)</sup>- Cherry  
 Holston<sup>(Mt. Carmel)</sup>- Phillips  
 MD Recycling- Woosley  
 Occidental Chem.- Borum  
 Olin Corporation- Phillips  
 Smelter- Phillips  
 Solutia- Phillips  
 Tenneco Pkg.- Cherry  
 TN Air Ntl. Gd.- Cherry  
 TVA<sup>(Gallatin)</sup>- Woosley  
 TVA<sup>(New J'ville)</sup>- Borum  
 TVA<sup>(Lagoon Crk)</sup>- Woosley  
 Turney Center- Borum  
 UCAR- Borum  
 Weyerhaeuser- Phillips

### LNG

Nashville- Phillips  
 Memphis<sup>(Art.)</sup>- Borum  
 Memphis<sup>(Caple.)</sup>- Woosley